Negotiation with Nepal to control floods in Bihar

659. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that much of Bihar's agony of floods can be minimised only if the rivers originating from Nepal are controlled;

(b) if so, whether the Central Government have been in negotiation with the Nepal Government in this regard;

(c) if so, the names of the rivers coming from Nepal and passing through Bihar causing immense flood damage and the progress of negotiation made with the Nepal Government in regard to each and causes for bottleneck;

(d) whether the issue calls for urgent attention for being sorted out at higher political level; and

(e) if so, the details; and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) Appropriate storage dams in Nepal on rivers flowing from Nepal would help in reducing flood problems in north Bihar.

(b) Government of India have been negotiating with Nepal in this regard.

(c) Major rivers, Gandak, Burhi Gandak, Kosi and Mahananda, their tributaries as well as Kamla, Bagmati and Adhwara group of rivers and other Tributaries of Kosi flow from Nepal to Bihar. High Dam on Kosi, Hydro meteorological Stations in Nepal for flood warning and coordinated flood control works are being discussed.

(d) and (e) Negotiations are being held at appropriate Government level.

Weather-forecasting computer in the Country

660. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have got and advanced type of computer for weather forecasting in our country;

(b) if so, the period for which this computer can do the forecasting;

(c) whether an advanced type of computer, capable of giving forecast for six months/one year ahead, is also available in other countries; and

(d) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to acquire them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT,S OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN):

(a) No, Sir, not yet.

(b) Does not apply.

(c) No, Sir, From the information available no such system exists.

(d) Does not arise.

Electoral reforms

661. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention have been drawn to the recent deliberations in the two day meeting of major opposition leaders on the issue of electoral reforms;

(b) what is Government's view regarding the issue of funding of elections by Government; and

(c) what steps are likely to be taken to ensure that a consensus is

brought about regarding this aspect of electoral reforms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): Yes, Sir. (b) and (c) The Election Commission has proposed as part of its proposals for electoral reforms that to deal with the problem of money power, it is necessary to evolve a scheme under which the burden of all legitimate election expenses could be shifted to the state. The Commission has also observed that the whole subject merited an in-depth study. This proposal along with the other proposals for electoral reforms, are intended to be discussed with the political parties before arriving at a final decision.

Shri Katasraj Temples in Pakistan in Ruins

662. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH:

SHRI RAM NARESH KUSHAWAHA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the ancient Shri Katasraj temples in Pakistan are in ruins and that many other temples are in precarious condition because of total neglect by the Government of Pakistan;

(b) whether Government have taken up the matter with Pakistan Government for the restoration of the glory of the ancient temples in that country;

(c) if so, what is the outcome thereof; and

(d) if the answer to part (b) above be in the negative whether Government propose to take up the question with the Government of Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a to (d) The responsibility for the maintenance of the Katasraj temples, which are indeed in poor repair, rests squarely with the Government of Pakistan Any shortcoming noted in the upkeep of the temples have from time to time been brought to the notice of the Pakistan authorities, but there has been no perceptible improvement in the situation.

Casualties in firing in Siachen Glacier Area

663. SHRI F. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of times when firing by Pakistani troops on Indian Army in the Siachen glacier in the last two months took place;

(b) what is the number of casualties which took place on both the sides in each attack;

(c) whether the Government of Pakistan have rejected the Indian proposal to accept the present line of control as a solution to the Siachen glacier controversy; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government have lodged any protest with the Pak Government in this regard; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) During the last two months, there have been some incidents of unprovoked firing by Pakistani troops in the Siachen Glacier area. In the last week of September and the first week of October, Pakistani troops attacked our positions on the Saltoro range which were successfully repulsed.

(b) The above incidents have resulted in some casualties on both sides. It would not be desirable to disclose details.